ATTACHMENT A
Remarks

Claims 1-26 and 29-32 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-16, 18-26, 30 and 32, and canceled claims 27 and 28. Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance based on the discussion which follows.

Claims 18-26, 30 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph because of their preambles. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to overcome this rejection.

Claims 1-21 and 23-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the online reference, "Windows 98-USB Troubleshooting Reference" (hereinafter "Windows 98").

The present method is directed to removing a device from a computer system using a novel and non-obvious method which automatically removes entry of a device from a computer system. In order to more clearly underscore the automatic nature of the present method, which does not use exhaustive manual searching of the voluminous amount of configuration data present in modern operating systems followed by selective deleting of files and rewriting or modifying the text of various configuration files manually, the claims have been amended to even more clearly recite the automatic functionality, which includes a series of tasks or operations performed exclusively by executed computer instructions without a manual user input to perform the recited steps. In the claims, the automatically performed tasks include scanning configuration data, locating subkeys in the registry, such as all subkeys associated with a specific vendor, deleting those subkeys, and/or modifying the text within a configuration file.

One skilled in the art would readily interpret the invention claimed in the amended claims to be a series of tasks or operations executed by a computer system without a user manually performing the recited tasks or operations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims, as amended, are not anticipated by or obvious from Windows 98.

Considering the novelty of the present method in further detail, the present method is directed to a computer method for automatically removing entry of a device. Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art fails to anticipate or make obvious the present automatic method because the cited prior art is directed to very specific instructions for manual activities which are limited in scope, i.e., the prior art does not teach or suggest all elements of the method and/or the combination of processes in the method. Moreover, the manual activities taught by Windows 98 do not produce the same result as the present method. Clearly, the present method, which is directed to an automated computer implemented process for removing a device which may include scanning a significant amount of configuration data followed by deleting various files and/or rewriting initialization files, is substantially faster than performing similar tasks manually. Thus, the result of the present method is not the same as the result taught in Windows 98.

Furthermore, the present method is not equivalent to prior art methods previously performed manually, but now done automatically. Although both the outstanding Office Action and the prior Advisory Action cite *In re Venner*, 120 USPQ [192] in support of an allegation that the present method is just the automation of a prior method performed manually, Windows 98 does not accomplish the same result as the present method.

The facts in the present case are completely different than those of *In re* Venner. In *In re Venner*, the purported invention was directed to the addition of a timer and solenoid to a mold structure, and the court found that the addition of a timer and solenoid did not change the result of the prior art, which was to open a mold at a particular time. In contrast to the holding in *In re Venner*, in the present case, a completely different result occurs from that resulting from the manual performance of tasks according to the teaching of Windows 98. The result of the present automated method is improved thoroughness and speed, and this result would not be considered by one of ordinary skill in the art to be the same result achieved by Windows 98. Thus, unlike *In re Venner*, in which the device produced the exact same molded object in the exact or substantially same time as the prior art, the result of the present method is substantially different.

Moreover, the present method, as recited in various claims, includes additional steps and/or a combination of steps not taught or suggested in Windows 98. Windows 98 is directed to the specific removal of a previously identified USB driver which is not properly identified or functioning in a Windows 98 operating system. Windows 98 teaches manually deleting one or more devices of the universal serial bus controllers (Windows 98, page 1). Further, Windows 98 teaches manually searching the registry to locate two previously identified or known keys, namely HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Enum\hid and HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Enub\USB (Windows 98, page 6), followed by deleting these two keys. Windows 98 does not teach or suggest searching a registry for all keys associated with one or more vendors.

Further, Windows 98 does not teach or suggest rewriting or modifying an initialization file.

Turning to the pending claims, claims 1, 4, 12, 13, 19 and 29 are directed to a method for automatically removing entry of a device by scanning configuration data to determine an entry for a device not properly identified by the system and removing automatically, without user input, the entry for the device from the configuration data after determining a device is not properly identified.

It is respectfully submitted that Windows 98 fails to teach or suggest scanning configuration data to determine an entry for a device not properly identified by the system. To the contrary, Windows 98 presumes or already "knows" which device is not properly identified, namely the USB controller. Windows 98 fails to teach or suggest any method of scanning configuration data to determine an entry of a device not properly identified by the system. In other words, Windows 98 fails to teach or suggest any determination or determining step, as Windows 98 presumes the USB controller device is not properly identified by the system.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that Windows 98 fails to suggest or make obvious any step of scanning configuration data to determine if a device is not properly identified. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Windows 98 fails to teach or suggest removing the entry of the device automatically after determining a device is not properly identified. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Windows 98 does not teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 1, 4, 12, 13, 19 and 29.

Claims 2, 14, 15 and 18 are directed to determining a vendor of a device, scanning the configuration data for all devices associated with the vendor, and deleting

all keys associated with the device associated with the vendor automatically, without user input, after the subkeys associated with the vendor have been located during the scanning.

It is respectfully submitted that Windows 98 fails to teach or suggest determining a vendor of the device. To the contrary, Windows 98 does not disclose any determining of a vendor step. Furthermore, since Windows 98 does not determine a vendor, Windows 98 is silent as to scanning subkeys in the configuration data for all devices associated with the vendor. Although Windows 98 notes a vendor name for the device, and the Office Action cites Windows 98, page 6, "Locate the key" and "hit Delete to remove the device node," nowhere does Windows 98 teach or suggest scanning subkeys for a particular vendor, let alone scanning all subkeys in a configuration data followed by deleting all keys as claimed.

Further, the present method provides features and advantages not suggested by Windows 98, namely, the present method further reduces the chance of conflict during a device installation by removing keys associated with the vendor, i.e., enables the installation of a device without potential conflicts with a former device installation that added keys and subkeys to the configuration data.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 14, 15 and 18 are not obvious in view of Windows 98.

Claims 3, 8, 11, 16, 22 and 26 are directed to modifying an initialization file to remove device information automatically, without manual user input. Although the Office Action cites Windows 98, page 2, and states "a user can manually modify the text of the files," it is respectfully submitted that nowhere in Windows 98, let alone on

page 2, is there any teaching or suggestion that a user could or should modify the text of any file, let alone an initialization file. Windows 98 merely teaches that various configuration and initialization files exist with their respective file names. However, this teaching of merely identifying the files which should exist in a computer system in no way suggests that one or more file should be modified. Moreover, Windows 98 fails to provide any instruction as to how one should modify a file and what the modifications should be. Furthermore, even if one were to modify the initialization file, the modification would be conducted manually, in that there is no teaching or suggestion in Windows 98 that the initialization file would be automatically modified by the computer system without user input.

With regard to claim 5, although the Office Action states that Windows 98 discloses the subject matter of this claim, it is respectfully submitted that nowhere in Windows 98 is there any teaching or suggestion of saving a backup prior to deletion. Although the Office Action notes that it is "possible" to save a backup prior to deleting, nowhere in Windows 98 is there any suggestion that a backup should be made prior to deletion.

With regard to claims 6 and 30, it is respectfully submitted that Windows 98 does not teach a method for automatically removing entry of an unknown device by scanning a registry to determine whether a USB printer is properly identified by the system. Although Windows 98 teaches deleting a USB device which Windows 98 presumes is not properly identified by the system, nowhere does Windows 98 teach scanning a registry to make a determination as claimed.

With regard to claim 10, as discussed above with regard to claims 1, 2 and 31, Windows 98 fails to teach or suggest the combination of elements recited.

With regard to claims 17, 19, 20, 21 and 23-25, as discussed above with regard to claims 3 and 10, Windows 98 fails to disclose removing a registry key without a user manually searching the registry key or modifying a configuration file to indicate removal of the device, as claimed.

Finally, an obvious typographical error in the specification has been corrected.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

END REMARKS

ATTACHMENT B
Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 10-21, with the following amended paragraph:

In one particular embodiment, the invention is directed to software for uninstalling a previously installed device attached to a computer system where the previous installation was partial, incomplete, or otherwise was in error or which resulted in the operating system being unable to completely identify the attached device, or where the device is desired to be removed from the system so that a ~~reisntallation~~ reinstallation of the device will occur without trouble or other undesired incident. The software insures that all files and artifacts that are not normally removed by the operating system are in fact removed or renamed so as not to interfere with other applications or functions, or not to interfere with a subsequent reinstallation of the device. In a particular embodiment, the software is capable of appropriating generic registry keys and renaming manufacturer-specific registry keys so that the computer system or operating system can properly detect the device at a later time such as during a subsequent installation of the device.

ATTACHMENT C
Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 27 and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically removing entry of a device from a computer system identified by the system as not being property identified, said method comprising:

~~searching~~ scanning configuration data ~~for~~ using executable computer code to determine an entry for a device not properly identified by the system; and

removing automatically, without user input, the entry for the device from the configuration data after determining the device is not properly identified.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a vendor of the device;

~~searching~~ scanning all subkeys in the configuration data for all devices associated with the vendor; and

deleting all keys associated with the devices associated with the vendor automatically without user input after the subkeys associated with the vendor have been located during said scanning.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

modifying an initialization file to remove device information automatically by the computer system without manual user input.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

deleting files identified in a file list.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the deleting element further comprises:

saving a backup copy of the files prior to deletion automatically without manual user input.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically removing entry of an unknown device from a computer system, said method comprising:

~~searching~~ scanning a registry ~~for~~ to determine whether a Universal Serial Bus printer ~~which~~ is not properly identified by the computer system by the computer system using computer executable code without a user manually searching the registry; and

removing ~~an entry~~ all entries for the printer from the registry automatically without manual user input.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

determining a vendor of the printer;

~~searching~~ scanning subkeys in the registry for all printers associated with the vendor; and

deleting all keys for all the printers associated with the vendor automatically without manual user input.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

clearing load, run, and device lines from an initialization file.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

removing a devices section and a printerports ~~sections~~ section from an initialization file.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having instructions thereof for enabling a computer to execute a method comprising:

scanning a configuration file to determine all devices not properly identified by the system;

deleting entries in ~~a~~ the configuration file for all of the devices not properly identified by a computer system executing the computer program after scanning the configuration file;

scanning all subkeys in the configuration file for a device entry associated with a selected vendor; and

removing all keys from the configuration file associated with the selected vendor, wherein the keys are associated with the device entry without a user manually deleting the keys.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises:

removing references associated with the device from an initialization file automatically without manual user input.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises:

deleting files identified in a file list.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer, comprising:

a processor; and

storage comprising instructions executable on the processor, the instructions executable for automatically and without user input:

detecting devices attached to the computer,

scanning a computer system, and identifying the attached devices as unknown when drivers for the attached devices are not present,

installing all device drivers, and

deleting entries in a configuration file for all devices which are not properly identified by the computer.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:

scanning all subkeys in the configuration file for a device entry associated with a selected vendor.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer of claim 14, wherein the instructions further comprise:

removing all keys from the configuration file, wherein the keys are associated with the device entry.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:

modifying an initialization file to remove all information associated with the device without manual user input.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

means for removing a registry key associated with a predetermined device of a computer system without a user manually searching for the registry key; and

means for modifying a configuration file to indicate removal of the predetermined device from the computer system without a user manually modifying the configuration file,

wherein the predetermined device is removed from the computer system so as to not interfere with a subsequent device installation.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said removing means includes means for removing all registry keys according to a vendor of the predetermined device.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said removing means removing at least one registry key selected from a list of registry keys consisting of:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\enum\device bus\

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\Environments\Windows 4.0\Drivers

HKEY__LOCAL_MACHINE\System\currentcontrolset\control\device function\monitors

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\Ports

KEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\device type

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Config\0001\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\ device function\device type

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Class,

where device bus indicates a type of bus the predetermined device uses to couple to the computer system, device function indicates a function the predetermined devices provides, and device type indicates a group classification of the predetermined device.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said modifying means modifying the configuration file, wherein the configuration file is selected from a list consisting of: win.ini, windows.inf, windows\system, and windows\system32.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said removing means removing at least one registry key, wherein the at least one register key is selected from a list of registry keys consisting of:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\enum\device bus\

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\Environments\Windows 4.0\Drivers

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\currentcontrolset\control\device function\monitors

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\Ports

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\device type

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Config\0001\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\ device function\device type

HKEY__LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Class, where the device bus indicates a type of bus the predetermined device uses to couple to the computer system, the device function indicates a function the predetermined devices provides, and the device type indicates a group classification of the predetermined device, and the modifying means modifying at least one of the following configuration files: win.ini, windows.inf, windows\system, and windows\system32.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, the modifying means modifying a win.ini file by clearing at least one or more of following lines in the win.ini file associated with the predetermined device: load=, run=, device=lines, and at least one or more of the following sections of the win.ini file: devices and deviceports sections.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said removing means being configured by one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine coupled to the computer system via a network.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said modifying means being configured by one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine coupled to the computer system via a network.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, the removing means being configured by one or more of the following: software stored on an

information storage medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine coupled to the computer system via a network.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, said modifying means being configured by one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine coupled to the computer system via a network.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the device is considered to be not properly identified by the system when the device is:

(i) not identified by the system,

(ii) not completely recognized by the system, or

(iii) only identified as a generic device by the system.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~a claimed in~~ of claim 6 wherein the printer is considered to be not properly identified by the computer system when the system cannot identify the printer at all, only partially recognizes the printer, or only recognizes the printer as a generic device.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 10 wherein the devices are considered to be not properly identified when the devices are:

(i) not identified by the system,

(ii) not completely recognized by the system, or

(iii) only identified as a generic device by the system.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~readable medium~~ of claim 13 wherein the devices are considered to be not properly identified when the devices are:

(i) not identified by the computer,

(ii) not completely identified by the computer, or

(iii) only identified as generic devices by the computer.